**Joint Meeting with Orange Public Libraries Trustees, Building Committee, and Selectboard**

**Orange Town Hall**

**August 10, 2022**

**6:30 pm**

Selectboard: Jane Pierce, Richard Sheridan, AJ Smith, Pat Lussier, Tom Smith

Community Development Director Alec Wade via zoom

Town Administrator: Gabe Voelker, via zoom

Present: Jessica Magelaner, Library Director

Present: Building Committee: Debbie Kent

Present: Trustees: Priscilla Gaignard, Joanne Woodcock, Candy Cross, Robin Shtulman, Janice Lanoue, and Nate Johnson (via Zoom)

**Library presentation to the Selectboard updating project**

OPM and architect are not available.

Jess reviewed MBLC grant info: Officially offered the grant July 7, 2022. Originally applied in 2016. Waitlisted at 17. In May we found out that we were getting the grant this year.

Original estimated cost was $9 million, with MBLC reimbursement of $5,218,804

Construction costs have increased. We will be getting a professional estimate soon.

Jane: Is it possible to redesign?? Jess: limited changes, must be same sq footage, can’t change the purpose of the principal rooms.

Still must meet all requirements – green certification, accessibility, etc.

AJ Smith: What does this mean for the town? Debt exclusion vote approved at last meeting. Jess: Yes, taxes will go up. We have been fundraising and will continue. It will mean a tax increase – we cannot raise the entire amount.

AJ asked about repayment from state.

Jess: 4 goal posts throughout project. MBLC will reimburse ¼ as goalposts met .First payment is at groundbreaking

What is construction timeline? Usually takes 2 – 3 years. Debt exclusion is for the life of the project.

Updated estimate expected 8/13 from OPM and architect.

Pat Lucier: Went back to last meeting – thinks its 20% five times. (MBLC website can clarify.)

Pat L: People need to know how it will impact their own budget.

Jess agreed that is our first goal.

Jane: Gabe can do that.

Jane: Heard from Selectboard member Carolyn Shores Ness in Deerfield. Their Tilton Library also has an award. Ms Shores Ness asked if we thought if it would be reasonable to get all the new grantees together to try to petition the governor to make ARA (federal rescue) money available to all of us. Covid is a reason costs went up so much. Their price wnet up to $12 million.

Jane suggests Jess contact Deerfield Trustees and start the conversation. Jess agreed.

Gabe: Assessors will be able to get us the #

Once we have the revised cost estimate, the assessors (Harald) will give us the chart about impact of library debt exclusion on property taxes.

Tom: What are the major improvements for the project?

* Fully accessible community room – separate and independent from library.
* Children’s room on the second floor – natural light
* Quiet study rooms – zoom, study sessions
* Separate teen room – only a corner now.
* More than one bathroom, full accessibility to the building, bathrooms.
* Main entrance will be where lower parking lot is now – small interior elevator – half step to first floor and to ground level. Front will stay looking that way, but it won’t be a main entrance.

Tom: How can we help? Jess: Donate on the website through Community Foundation. Coffee sales, little Orange Wheelbarrows throughout town/event, raffles.

If you know anyone who wants to make a large donation, send them to Jessica.

Jane: Outreach to banks, businesses? It’s uphill, but its extremely important to our community We’ve seen how it helped Athol

Richard: I’ve always been a supporter of the library.

I’m in favor of pursuing of whatever will make this happen.

Tom: How will we know the final numbers
Jess: Hoping to get it this Saturday.

Jane: It’s too bad to have to wait 6 years. After so long, the reimbursement could not equal 50%, as costs rise.

**Brief post selectboard meeting between Trustees and Building Committee: Jess Magelaner, Deb Kent, Robin Shtulman, Priscilla Gaignard, Candy Cross, Joanne Woodcock. Public: Janice Lanoue**

Discussed ARA funds collaborative effort with other current MBLC grantees. Very promising. Jess will email Tilton Library director tonight.

Ben Feldman (past Athol treasurer) helped structure library financing to pay off quickly. Can we meet with he and Gabe to explore?

Voted to approve short donor letter. Jess will print out with letterhead and have available for Saturday’s event.

Voted to approve wording for lawn signs. Robin will work with Canva website to design.

Discussed importance of personal conversations with potential donors and setting up appointments.

Janice Lanoue: We needed a new library over 30 years ago. This is 4th go round.

Voted to cancel 8/18 meeting. Jess will be at Third Thursday instead. Robin will join.

Next meeting: August 25 at Moore-Leland and via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53.